THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): The alternative site for Kabristan has been identified in the West of Marginal Bund Road in the Yamuna River Bed opposite Geeta Colony. The site however, involves change of land use and the Ministry is seized of the matter.

Lease of Spare Capacity of Satellites

3860. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the spare capacity on our satellite orbiting the earth;

(b) whether this spare capacity is being leased;

(c) if so, to whom and in what manner;

(d) how much foreign exchange would be earned on this account; and

(e) the steps being taken to expand the satellite programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) At present two satellites (IRS-1B and IRS-1C) under IRS system and four satellites (INSAT-1D), INSAT-2A, INSAT-2B, INSAT-2C) under INSAT system are in orbit providing operational services. As regards the remote sensing satellite, in view of the orbiting nature of these satellites (which revolve around the earth once every 104 minutes), there is some capacity of these spacecraft which can be used for imaging other parts of the world. In order to take advantage of this capability, Department of Space, through its commercial wing, Antrix Corporation Limited, has tied up with an American company EOSAT, for the global marketing of the IRS capacity. Presently, three ground Stations in the world—Hyderabad (India), Norman (USA) and Neustralitz (Germany) are accessing IRS satellites regularly and this constitutes about 40% of its maximum possible capacity.

As regards the INSAT satellites, the total capacity available as of now is 57 C-band transponders, seven S-band transponders, three Kuband transponders, one S-band mobile communications transponder and three data relay transponders. Apart from these, INSAT-2A and 2B also carry very High Resolution Radiometer for meteorological imaging purposes.

In the case of remote sensing satellites, there is no leasing arrangement possible as in the case of communication (INSAT) satellites. In regard to the INSAT satellites, the entire capacity has been made available to Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Data Relay Transponders are being used by India Meteorological Department. The transponders are being used for providing a variety of services including long distance telephony and data services, VSAT services, Remote Area Communications, National and Regional Television distribution and broadcasting, education, development communications, training of rural development functionaries, Radio networking, disaster warning, meteorological data dissemination, etc.

(d) In respect of IRS satellites, the expected foreign exchange earning is about US $ 1 Million per annum.

As regards the INSAT satellites, the INSAT capacity is being used for providing domestic services only by the Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and hence foreign exchange is not earned through these operations. However, the

cost of leasing such a capacity from foreign satellites, if attempted at the prevailing International rates, could be of the order of Rs. 400.00 crores per year. This does not include the intangible social benefits and those accruing out of meteorological services provided through INSAT system.

(e) The steps taken to expand the satellite programme include:

— Continuing and enhancing the existing satellite service capabilities with the launch of follow-on INSAT and IRS series of satellites;

— Introduction of new service payloads in the follow-on satellites

— Incorporation of payloads in the follow-on satellites for providing advanced technologies in areas of remote sensing, communication, broadcasting, meteorology, disaster management and for space science; and

— Increasing the number of satellites in orbit both in INSAT and IRS series over the next few years thereby increasing space segment capacity.

Commensurate studies, design and development activities have been initiated in this regard through technology development programmes, study project and experimental satellite projects.

Unemployed Persons in Rural Areas

3861. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country, as on the 15th August, 1996;

(b) the number, out of them of the partly unemployed and of those fully unemployed; and

(c) the details of measures taken to provide gainful employement to such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The estimates of unemployment are not available as on the 15th August, 1996. However, according to Planning Commission, based on NSSO during 1993-94 (NSS-50th Round), the incidence of open unemployment is 1.79% (unemployed as percentage of Labour Force) and the incidence of unemployment and visible under-employment is 5.61% in Rural India.

The expansion of employment opportunities is an important objective of Eighth Five Year Plan and the Plan strategy lays emphasis on faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential, for accelerating employment growth.

Major employment programmes implemented in various States are Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), for providing employment opportunities to rural poor.

Marketing of country liquor in Silvassa

3862. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Territory Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli has a distillery, manufacturing country liquor in tribal areas of Silvassa;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the Union Territory Administration is importing country liquor from other States for distribution to vendors in Industrial and Tribal areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli; and